

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00624 201010Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-07 DOTE-00 /073 W
-----201015Z 112005 /12

P R 191601Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8719
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0624

FOR LASOR FROM THOMPSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, DN, NO
SUBJECT: COTONOU COUP ATTEMPT AFTERMATH

REF: (A) STATE 012037 (NOTAL) (B) COTONOU 131 (NOTAL)

1. NORWEGIAN EMBOFF RECEIVED CALL FROM COTONOU JAN 18
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CONFIRMING RELEASE OF TWO NORWEGIAN ENGINEERS CONNECTED WITH
NORWEGIAN-BENINESE SEISMIC RESEARCH PROJECT. BOTH MEN WERE
REPORTED IN DETERIORATING HEALTH, HAVING BEEN GIVEN ONLY SMALL
QUANTITIES OF WATER AND NO FOOD SINCE THEIR DETENTION 36 HOURS
EARLIER. ACCORDING TO ENGINEERS ACCOUNT, THEY WERE HELD IN A
VERY HOT, LOW-CEILINGED, TIN-ROOFED BUILDING TOGETHER WITH
APPROXIMATELY 100 OTHER EUROPEANS IN AN AREA OF ABOUT 100

SQUARE METERS.

2. ENGINEERS, STAYING AT HOTEL DE LA PLAGE, WERE ARRESTED AS "SPIES" ON JANUARY 16, SINCE BENINESE SECURITY FORCES FOUND VHF SHIP-TO-SHORE RADIO AND SEISMIC DATA TAPES IN THEIR POSSESSION. NORWEGIANS ARE NOW SEEKING ASSISTANCE OF MIN OF INDUSTRY OUHENS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PROJECT IN HAVING TAPES, RADIO EQUIPMENT AND CONFISCATED PASSPORT OF ONE OF ENGINEERS RESTORED.

3. ACCORDING TO JAN. 19 NIGERIAN PRESS, AN AEROFLOT ILYUSHIN JET, REGISTRY "CCCP 85179", LANDED JAN. 17 AT LAGOS AIRPORT, AFTER BEING DENIED LANDING RIGHTS IN COTONOU. NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT AFTER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FMG AUTHORITIES, PILOT AND SOVIET CONSUL, AIRCRAFT DEPARTED LAGOS JANUARY 18.

4. INFORMATION ON SWISS NATIONALS HAS BEEN PASSED TO SWISS CONSUL WHO WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR ASSISTANCE.

5. AMCONSUL IBADAN AND KADUNA WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INCLUDED AS ADDRESSEES ON COTONOU SITREPS.

EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, AIRCRAFT, PRISONERS RELEASE, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770138/aaaabgto.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4deda2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, DM, NO
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